dating back to 3rd Century B.C. has been found in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the place would be speedily developed and protected and opened as a tourist resort?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The excavations at Alagankulam, District Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu, undertaken by the State Department of Archaeology have revealed that it was a port site under continuous occupation from 3rd Century B.C. to the 5th Century A.D. The finds from the excavations include Northern Black Polished Ware, potsherds with Tamil Brahmi inscriptions, besides Roman Ware and coins suggesting its relation with the Western World from 1st Century B.C. onwards. Minor antiquities found here consist of beads of semi-precious stones, shell-bangles and grooved tiles.

(b) The site has to be excavated for a few more seasons to ascertain its archaeological wealth and to assess its tourist potentialities.

Air taxi service

1498. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government propose to undertake an independent evaluation of experience of air taxi system in USA and other countries where the service is reported to be now losing its popularity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): No, Sir.

Medical facilities to freedom fighters

1499. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in Indian Express of 21st August, 1986 wherein it has been stated that freedom fighters and their families are to be given free medical facilities in Government hospitals throughout the country; and

(b) if so, when will these orders be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Necessary orders extending free medical facilities to freedom fighters and their families in Central Government hospitals have been issued.

Growth of clinics for Predetermination of sex

1500. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that amniocentesis is a serious health hazard and that it is unethically exploited by the sex determination clinics in major cities, particularly in Bombay;

(b) what is the reaction of Government for this mushroom growth of PDT (Predetermination of Sex) clinics; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Amniocentesis is indicated for research purpose and for the diagnosis of sex linked disorders. However, there are press reports that this test is being used unethically for the determination of the sex of foetus, especially in major cities including Bombay.

(b) and (c) Maharashtra State has recently constituted a State-level Committee to make an in-depth study of this issue both for technical, legal and public education aspects on this issue. The Government of India is also examining further action on this point.